

## Other Signs of Mammal Activity...

### Digging, Scraping and Tunneling in the Ground...

Holes in the ground may be a sign of a Shrew, Mole, Mouse, Muskrat, Woodchuck, Skunk, Opossum, Raccoon, Cottontail or Fox. The size of the hole is a great indication of the specific type of animal.



### Mounds of Earth...

May be a sign of a Beaver or Muskrat if near the water's edge, or a Mole if found in woods, fields or lawns.

### Constructed Nests, Homes and Dams...

Beaver and Muskrats construct dams in the water. Moles, Cottontails and Shrews construct nests in or on the ground. Gray Squirrels construct leaf nests in trees (called "drays").

### Natural Cavities: Tree Holes, Hollow Logs, Upturned Stumps...

Could be occupied by Otters if near water, and Opossums, Raccoons, Skunks and Squirrels if in the forest. Look for scratch marks or gnawed bark around the entrance.

### Food Remains and Caches...

Mushrooms half-eaten or in trees is a sign of a Gray Squirrel, Mouse or Vole. A collection of nuts, seeds or cones is a sign of Squirrels and Mice. Dug-up turtle eggs are a sign of Skunks, Raccoons or Foxes (and sometimes Squirrels!). Gnawed bones are a sign of Mice and Squirrels.

### Scat...

Knowing the different types of animals' scat (droppings) is a very useful way of identifying which animals are present. Raccoon scat is often found on logs near water. Deer and Cottontail pellets are found in fields, and tiny mice scat can be found under logs or inside buildings.

## Please help protect our Natural Resources!

Please remember that all plants and animals found in the City's parks are protected by law. It is illegal to molest, injure or remove any wildlife including their nests, eggs or young. It is also illegal to remove, cut, damage or destroy any plants (including plant parts) found in the parks. Help us conserve your natural resources!



### For more information...

If you have any questions regarding this listing, or if you would like more information about any of the City's natural resources, please contact us at:



Newport News Park Discovery Center  
13560 Jefferson Avenue  
Newport News, Virginia 23603  
(757) 886-7916, 886-7912

# MAMMALS OF THE PARKS

*Newport News, Virginia*



### Welcome...

Newport News is located in what is called the Peninsula area of the Coastal Plain region of Virginia. Its forests, fields, rivers, marshes and grasslands are a wildlife watcher's paradise.



During your visit to the City's parks we hope you will take the time to observe our wildlife. There are 121 species of mammals found in Virginia; 30 of these may be seen in the parks located throughout the City.

Save this brochure; it can be used at any of the City's parks and provides a nice record of "wildlife sightings."



The following mammals have been found in the parks located in the City of Newport News.

Please contact us at the number or address on the back of this brochure if you note any additions to this list.

### Bats

- ☐ Big Brown Bat
- ☐ Red Bat
- ☐ Evening Bat
- ☐ Silver-Haired Bat
- ☐ Eastern Pipistrelle
- ☐ Little Brown Myotis



### Squirrels

- ☐ Eastern Gray Squirrel
- ☐ Southern Flying Squirrel

### Shrews

- ☐ Least Shrew
- ☐ Southeastern Shrew
- ☐ Southeastern Short-Tailed Shrew

### Moles

- ☐ Eastern Mole
- ☐ Star-Nosed Mole

### Mice

- ☐ Eastern Harvest Mouse
- ☐ House Mouse
- ☐ White-Footed Mouse

### Voles

- ☐ Meadow vole
- ☐ Woodland Vo

### Foxes

- ☐ Gray Fox
- ☐ Red Fox



- ☐ Muskrat
- ☐ River Otter
- ☐ Bobcat
- ☐ Woodchuck
- ☐ Eastern Cottontail Rabbit
- ☐ Striped Skunk
- ☐ Raccoon
- ☐ White-tailed Deer



- ☐ Virginia Opossum

(The only marsupial found in the US- newborn Opossums crawl into their mother's marsupium or "pouch" to complete development)

- ☐ Beaver

(By 1911 this species was listed as extinct in Virginia- beavers were successfully reintroduced in 1932)

### MAMMAL TRACKS...

Most of the mammals found in the parks are nocturnal (they usually come out at night), so it is not unusual to walk through a park without actually seeing any animals. You can find *signs* of wildlife though. Look in muddy or sandy areas for tracks of park wildlife.



SQUIRREL

MUSKRAT



RABBIT

DEER



FOX

BOBCAT

SKUNK



OTTER

OPOSSUM

BEAVER

RACCOON